

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 EA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 AID-01 NSC-06 RSC-01

DRC-01 /033 W

----- 015248

R 050450Z JUL 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2044

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 1131

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, ETRD, PINT, CH, US

SUBJECT: SENATOR JACKSON MEETS PREMIER CHOU, HAS PRESS

CONFERENCE, DEPARTS FOR SHANGHAI

1. VISITING SENATOR JACKSON MET WITH PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI FOR ONE HALF HOUR ON THE MORNING OF JULY 5. FOLLOWING THE MEETING HE DEPARTED FOR A TRIP TO SOOCHOW, VIA SHANGHAI. HE WILL DEPART FOR HOME JULY 6 AND WILL CONVENE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS VISIT IN WASHINGTON AT 2 PM JULY 8.

2. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE PEKING AIRPORT, JACKSON SAID THE PREMIER HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN ILL, BUT SEEMED TO BE FEELING BETTER. MENTALLY, THE SENATOR SAID, CHOU WAS "SHARP AS A TACK" AND IN GOOD HUMOR. HE IS OBVIOUSLY FOLLOWING EVENTS VERY CLOSELY, THE SENATOR SAID, AS AN EXAMPLE, THE SENATOR MENTIONED THAT CHOU DEMONSTRATED INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF JACKSON'S LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS WITH VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CH'IAO KUAN-HUA, WHICH HAD EXTENDED OVER THREE DAYS, AND OF JACKSON'S FIVE HOURS OF CONVERSATION ON JULY 4 WITH VICE PREMIER TEN HSIAO-P'ING. ASKED BY THE PRESS IF HE MET WITH CHOU IN PEKING'S GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE, JACKSON SAID IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON THE LOCATION OF THE MEETING. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SENATOR AND MRS. JACKSON MET WITH CHOU ALONE, WITH NO OTHER

CODEL MEMBERS TAKING PART.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF HIS TALKS WITH THE CHINESE, JACKSON SAID THAT THEY HAD COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES AND HAD GIVEN HIM A BETTER VIEW OF THE PRC WORLD OUTLOOK. HE STRESSED THAT HE HAD FOUND THE LEADERS HE TALKED TO EXTREMELY FRANK AND FORTHRIGHT. ASKED IF MFN WAS DISCUSSED, JACKSON SAID THE CHINESE HAD NOT BROUGHT THE MATTER UP AND HE DID NOT CONSIDER IT A PROBLEM.

4. ASKED HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO MOSCOW, JACKSON SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN FULL REPORTS OF THE RESULTS OF THE TRIP, BUT IN GENERAL HE WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE WAY ARMS LIMITATION NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED. HE SAID THAT THE USSR HAD ALREADY BUILT UP CONSIDERABLE MOMENTUM IN UNDERGROUND TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND WOULD BE AT AN ADVANTAGE VIS-A-VIS THE US IN CONTINUED TESTING WHICH IS TO BE PERMITTED THROUGH 1976. OVERALL, HE SAID, HE DOES NOT FAVOR PIECEMEAL NEGOTIATION ON ARMS LIMITATION OR DISARMAMENT IN GENERAL. THESE, HE SAID, SHOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH A UNIFIED APPROACH, IN PACKAGE FORMAT.

5. COMMENT: THE SENATOR'S MEETING WITH CHOU WAS A LAST MINUTE AFFAIR AND WHILE IT MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE APPARENTLY HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL TALKS WHICH THE SENATOR HELD WITH CHIAO AND TENG BEFOREHAND, IT ALSO SEEMED DESIGNED TO QUIET RUMORS ABROAD THAT THE PREMIER IS SERIOUSLY ILL OR DEAD. AT USLO'S FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION PRC OFFICIALS WERE AT PAINS TO DISCOUNT THESE RUMORS. FOR EXAMPLE, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG HAI-JUNG CALLED THEM THE WORK OF "DISREPUTABLE PERSONS."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODELS, VISITS, CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST OFFICIALS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PEKING01131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740178-0363
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740772/aaaackby.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATOR JACKSON MEETS PREMIER CHOU, HAS PRESS CONFERENCE, DEPARTS FOR SHANGHAI
TAGS: OREP, PFOR, ETRD, PINT, CH, US, (JACKSON, HENRY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005